

Ford Assails Leaks of Data On the CIA

By PAUL HEALY

Washington, June 17 (News Bureau) — The White House said today that President Ford deplored the continued leaking "in bits and pieces" of classified information about the CIA, but declined to condemn any of the leakers by name.

Ron Nessen, presidential press secretary, said that a White House investigation of alleged CIA foreign-assassination plots was continuing, but that it was limited to "pulling together" material requested by the Senate Intelligence Committee, headed by Sen. Frank Church (D-Idaho).

Nessen said that such material, some of it from the minutes of National Security Council meetings, was being turned over to the Church committee and that he did not know whether Ford would ever favor making it public.

Denies Data Is Suppressed

Nessen rejected suggestions that this amounted to "suppressing information." He said that the President was interested in handling the investigation in a "strong, orderly and responsible way and not besmirching reputations."

He declined to comment when asked if Ford was irked by Vice President Rockefeller's suggestion on the television program "Meet the Press" on Sunday that Rockefeller had seen unsubstantiated evidence that President Kennedy and his brother Robert, who was attorney general during the Kennedy administration, had known of possible CIA plots to assassinate foreign leaders.

Rockefeller headed the presidential investigating commission on the CIA, which turned over its material on possible assassination plots to the President. Ford, in turn, gave this material to the Church committee. Nessen said Ford thought the committee was acting responsibly with it.

Meanwhile, Richard Goodwin, a Kennedy administration official, told The News today that the

question of political assassination had come up once when he attended a National Security Council meeting and that he had been "startled."

Goodwin then was a presidential assistant dealing with Latin American affairs and sat in on some council sessions dealing with Fidel Castro's takeover of Cuba in 1959.

He said today that he assassination possibility had been put forward but had been quickly dropped. He said he doubted that there had ever been a "presidentially-sanctioned effort to assassinate Castro."

Goodwin said also that in 1961, President Kennedy, in Goodwin's presence, told Ted Szulc, a reporter, that "I'm under quite a bit of pressure from the intelligence community" to get rid of Castro. Goodwin said that Kennedy had then dismissed the

idea as being "of course absurd." If Kennedy had taken the idea seriously, Goodwin said, the President would not have brought up the subject before a reporter.

Meanwhile, Rep. Lucien N. Nedzi (D-Mich.), whose resignation as chairman of the House Intelligence Committee was rejected by the House yesterday, insisted today that the House intelligence investigation continue.

Senior House Democrats are pushing to abolish or restructure the dissension-torn committee, but Nedzi said he was opposed to giving the investigation to the House Armed Services intelligence subcommittee, which he heads.

He did say, however, that he wanted some new faces on the Intelligence Committee.

Most of the senior House Democrats believe that the congressional investigation on the CIA should be left to the Senate Intelligence Committee, which has been working quietly since January and is far ahead of its House counterpart.